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Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 18 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/27. It begins by highlighting key resolutions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at its twenty-fourth session. It also describes the activities undertaken by UN-Habitat in cooperation with other agencies and organizations across the United Nations system in the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the global, regional and national levels.

The report concludes with five recommendations in which Member States are called upon to (a) support the preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in 2016, through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund; (b) start the preparation of national reports for the Habitat III preparatory process; (c) give appropriate consideration to the role of sustainable urbanization and of cities and local governments in sustainable development in their contributions to the United Nations post-2015 development agenda; (d) allocate appropriate financial and human resources for slum upgrading and prevention and establish financing strategies that mobilize public subsidies and income generated by land regularization and reallocation processes; and (e) initiate processes to develop or strengthen national urban policies as a key strategy for national socioeconomic development.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 18 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2012/27.

2. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to broaden its cooperation with agencies and organizations across the United Nations system. Among the key vehicles for cooperation were: the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including its three pillars of the United Nations Development Group, the High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management; the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs; and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. As in previous years, the Programme continued to provide technical inputs to reports of the Secretary-General and other relevant documents.

3. Outside the United Nations system, UN-Habitat continued to strengthen its relations with Habitat Agenda partners, including civil society groups, the private sector, professional bodies and research and training institutions.

4. Before the activities undertaken during the reporting period are described, key resolutions adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat are highlighted below.

II. Decisions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme at its twenty-fourth session

5. Six significant resolutions highlighted below were adopted at the twenty-fourth session of the UN-Habitat Governing Council, held from 15 to 19 April 2013.

A. Inputs for and support to the preparatory process for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

6. In December 2012, the General Assembly, through its resolution 67/216, requested the Secretary-General of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to prepare, using the expertise of the United Nations system, a proposal for consideration by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, at its twenty-fourth session, as to how best to provide inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner and to proceed accordingly.

7. In response to that request, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in his role as Secretary-General of Habitat III, prepared a report on Habitat III (HSP/GC/24/2/Add.3), which was considered at the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council. Having considered the report, the Governing Council adopted a resolution on inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), by which it took note of the report of the Executive Director on Habitat III and, among other things:

(a) Called upon Member States, using any available assistance and necessary guidance and support from UN-Habitat, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to form national Habitat committees where they do not exist and strengthen the existing national Habitat committees to ensure their effective and efficient participation in the Habitat III preparatory process, including the preparation of national reports;

(b) Invited Member States to carry out, before the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III, to be held in New York during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, national reports which consider the implementation of the Habitat Agenda adopted at the Habitat II conference and of other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, as well as new challenges, emerging trends and a prospective vision for sustainable human settlements and urban development, as a basis for the formulation of a "New Urban Agenda", in line with paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 67/216;

(c) Requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of UN-Habitat and of the United Nations system as a whole and, specifically, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to prepare regional reports drawing on the national reports as well as on available knowledge, resources and data, as inputs to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat III;

(d) Also requested the Secretary-General of the Conference, using the expertise of UN-Habitat and of the United Nations system as a whole and, specifically, in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions, and of other relevant international, regional and subregional international organizations, to prepare a global report drawing on the national and regional reports as well as on available knowledge, resources and data, as inputs for and support to the preparatory process of the conference;

(e) Further requested the Secretary-General of the Conference to use planned regional and global meetings such as the seventh session of the World Urban Forum, sessions of the United Nations regional commissions and regular sessions of regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development as well as of other relevant regional intergovernmental meetings, for the development of inputs to the preparatory process and invited the conveners of these events to facilitate dialogue on key issues in order to provide inputs to the first and second meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, while ensuring that the quality of participation and the outcomes are not compromised;

(f) Urged international and bilateral donors, as well as the private sector, financial institutions, foundations and other donors, to support the national, regional and global preparations for the Conference through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund and to support the participation of representatives of developing countries in their contributions to the Preparatory Committee meetings and the Conference itself.

B. Urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 agenda

8. Through the resolution on urbanization and sustainable urban development in the post-2015 agenda, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure that UN-Habitat contributes to the development and implementation of the post-2015 agenda in order to promote sustainable urbanization; and encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to give appropriate consideration in their contributions to the post-2015 agenda to sustainable urbanization, to sustainable urban development and to the role of cities and local governments.

9. That resolution was partly in follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), in which world leaders recognized, in paragraph 134, that if they are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. It was also in follow-up to paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 67/216, in which the Assembly encouraged giving appropriate consideration to sustainable urbanization in the elaboration of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda.

C. Promoting sustainable urban development by creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender

10. Through the resolution on promoting sustainable urban development by creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender, the Governing Council welcomed the dialogue on this topic held during the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council. By the same resolution, the Governing Council encouraged Governments to, among other things:

(a) Apply good urban planning policies to enhance economic productivity and equity, to implement economic empowerment programmes that create opportunities, with special reference to youth and women, and to adopt innovative tools for generating additional resources for local authorities in addressing urban planning matters, including through land and property value capture;

(b) Foster a participatory approach to sustainable human settlements through the development and support of strategies and mechanisms that encourage open and inclusive dialogue among all interested parties, with special attention to the needs and priorities of youth, women and vulnerable population groups in urban and rural areas, including children, the elderly, people with disabilities and minorities.

11. In the same resolution, the Governing Council also requested the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to:

(a) Continue working with partners to promote pro-poor land-based financing as a means of supporting urban development, densification and extension through, inter alia, land and property value capture and land and property taxation, and by documenting and disseminating good practices and developing innovative tools and instruments;

(b) Strengthen the UN-Habitat knowledge base, disseminate that knowledge to Member States and provide support to Member States on urban economy and municipal finance, including documenting and disseminating good practices and tools on the economics of urban form, economic development strategies, urban small-scale and informal economies and the economic empowerment of youth and women.

D. Making slums history: a worldwide challenge

12. Through the resolution entitled "Making slums history: a worldwide challenge", the Governing Council recalled, among other things, target D of Millennium Development Goal 7, which aimed to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, and took note of the Rabat Declaration of November 2012, through which participants committed themselves to support, through the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, the definition of a global goal of halving the proportion of people living in slums. The Governing Council then called upon Member States to, among other things:

(a) Implement the universal principles for slum upgrading and prevention such as prohibiting unlawful evictions, empowering women and youth, making slum upgrading interventions affordable and accessible, ensuring public participation regardless of race, sex, religious affiliation and socioeconomic status, and promoting accountability and transparency in all programmes;

(b) Consider the possibility of formulating, implementing and promoting inclusive urban policies, legislation, and housing strategies that ensure efficient institutional frameworks, mechanisms for decentralization and strengthening of local authorities, providing mixed land-uses and tenure types to enhance local development and sustainable participatory slum upgrading and prevention;

(c) Apply more systematically urban planning methods, including participatory processes adapted to the needs of incremental urbanization standards and compact, better integrated and connected urban development patterns;

(d) Increase allocation of financial and human resources for slum upgrading and prevention and establish financing strategies that mobilize public subsidies and income generated by land regularization and reallocation processes so as to develop investment plans for infrastructure and services;

(e) Promote housing policies integrating sustainable approaches for energy efficiency in housing and human settlements while respecting the environment and using innovative techniques and materials.

E. Inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift

13. Through the resolution on inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift, the Governing Council took note of the Rabat Declaration of the International Conference on "Making Slums History: a worldwide challenge for 2020", held in November 2012, where

25 Member States committed to reducing by half the proportion of people living in slums between 2015 and 2030. It also recalled the General Assembly resolution in which the Assembly adopted the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (resolution 43/181), and paragraph 65 of the Habitat Agenda, which encourages the periodic evaluation and revision, as necessary, of enabling housing policies with a view of creating a framework for efficient and effective housing delivery systems.

14. In the same resolution, the Governing Council requested UN-Habitat to pursue the expected outcomes of the Global Housing Strategy, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), entailing a paradigm shift, where needed, which would include the integration of housing with other urban uses; the encouragement of "pro-poor" orientation of markets; the promotion of systemic reforms to enable wider access to adequate housing solutions; the strengthening of linkages between housing, the economy, employment and poverty reduction; and the use of sustainable building and neighbourhood designs that would contribute to improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

15. The Governing Council also invited central and local governments to engage with UN-Habitat in global and regional platforms, including the Global Housing Strategy Network, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies and regional organizations, to share evidence-based knowledge, experiences and effective innovative practices in housing and slum upgrading that demonstrate the new paradigm.

F. Pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies

16. Through the resolution on pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies, the Governing Council:

(a) Encouraged Governments to initiate processes to review, strengthen and develop national urban policies, where appropriate, as a key strategy for national socioeconomic development, so as to maximize the national and local benefits of urbanization while mitigating potential adverse externalities, and as a coordination mechanism among different sectors and ministries;

(b) Requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to develop a general guiding framework for the development, where appropriate, of national urban policies, based on international good experiences, to further support Member States when developing and improving their urban policies;

(c) Invited Member States to facilitate participatory processes and a wide stakeholder participation, including local authorities and their associations, when developing, revising and implementing national urban policies;

(d) Encouraged Governments and Habitat Agenda partners to use planned city extension methodologies to guide the sustainable development of cities experiencing rapid urban growth, prevent slum proliferation, enhance access to basic urban services, support inclusive housing, enhance job opportunities and create a safe and healthy living environment.

III. Activities at the global level

17. Activities at the global level in which UN-Habitat worked with a wide range of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, Governments and a wide range of partners included: the sixth session of the World Urban Forum; World Habitat Day 2012; the World Urban Campaign; the preparation of the *State of the World's Cities Report*; the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development; and consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals.

A. Sixth session of the World Urban Forum

18. The World Urban Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities. The Forum is held in a different host city and country biennially, drawing on a wide range of experts from every walk of life. The Forum is the United Nations system's most important advocacy event focusing on the Habitat Agenda and with the highest level of cooperation and coordination around the Agenda. Participants at the Forum include, but are not limited to, national Governments, Habitat Agenda partners, relevant United Nations organizations and other international agencies.

19. The sixth session of the World Urban Forum was held in Naples, Italy, in September 2012. It was organized by UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Government of Italy, the region of Campania, the province of Naples and the municipality of Naples. The Forum focused on various issues related to the theme of the session, "The urban future". Over 440 events took place, consisting of dialogues, round tables, special sessions, networking, training and parallel and side events.

20. A major feature was an international exhibition with 80 booths open to local people and registered participants. The exhibition was the liveliest area of the Forum, visited by 26,956 people and facilitating many "transactions" and networking. Several memorandums of understanding intended to advance the urban agenda were signed with different partners.

21. Overall attendance at the Forum was 8,209 people, representing a record-high number of 152 countries. The majority of participants were from outside the host country. Some 112 official national Government delegations attended the Forum, with 433 participants from different ministerial departments. The majority (72 per cent) of the participants from national ministries were representatives of ministries dealing directly with urban issues (ministries of housing, urban development, cities, works, roads, transport and infrastructure and local authorities). Over 80 per cent of the least developed countries were represented.

22. The Forum's engagement with the United Nations system was strengthened through the organization of a United Nations high-level inter-agency meeting attended by 17 United Nations funds, programmes and agencies. Parallel events on urban development and health and on urban risk reduction and the resilience of cities were organized in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, respectively.

B. World Habitat Day 2012

23. The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. In 2012, the Day was celebrated on 1 October. The theme of the celebrations was "Changing cities, building opportunities". The objective was to highlight the role of cities as engines of growth. The main message was that when well planned, cities can continue to provide opportunities to both current and future residents. This dovetails with the new UN-Habitat campaign, "I am a city changer", which seeks to involve all in making their cities a better place to live.

24. World Habitat Day was celebrated in many countries, and typical events during the celebrations may be illustrated by what happened in a few countries. A celebration of the global observance of World Habitat Day was held in Embu Town, Kenya. The event was hosted and organized by the Government of Kenya through its Ministry of Housing. In Thailand, some 7,000 slum dwellers marched during World Habitat Day and submitted petitions to the United Nations on the need for all Governments in Asia to have pro-poor national housing policies and to mandate local participation in disaster mitigation measures. The national Government of Nepal, UN-Habitat and other Habitat Agenda partners organized a number of activities at both the central and municipal levels in order to publicize the need for good urban development. World Habitat Day celebrations helped politicians to recognize the significance of urban issues in Sri Lanka owing to the participation of the wider community, including women and schoolchildren, who organized an effective awareness programme on the theme of the Day.

25. The World Habitat Day celebration in Cuba was attended by 500 people and was used by the Agenda 21 network of community leaders to increase its membership from 80 in 2011 to 160 in October 2012. In Costa Rica, World Habitat Day provided an opportunity to establish the National Habitat Committee, which included directors and managers of 11 entities representing the private sector, academic institutions, the housing and urban institutional sector and municipalities. In Mexico, awareness of sustainable urbanization increased through the consolidation of strategic partnerships with the Mexico State Governor, the Federal District Mayor and the national office that organized an inclusive World Habitat Day.

C. World Urban Campaign

26. The year 2012 witnessed a positive trend in the growing number and diversity of the World Urban Campaign partners, and gave the Campaign a stronger voice in international forums to mainstream the Habitat Agenda. There are now over 50 partners in the Campaign, with new partners joining every month. The regional diversity of these organizations has also increased. The Campaign is now working to achieve a globally balanced membership by pursuing cooperation with more organizations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, in particular, in order to collaborate in the launching of national urban campaigns around the world, including in rapidly urbanizing regions.

27. In 2012, the World Urban Campaign facilitated the launch of the "I'm a city changer" campaigns in several cities in order to raise awareness of urban issues. The Campaign and other UN-Habitat advocacy platforms took advantage of several

occasions to raise awareness on urbanization issues, including at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the sixth session of the World Urban Forum and the AfriCities Summit, held in Dakar from 4 to 8 December 2012, where the first National Urban Campaign was launched with the support and participation of key World Urban Campaign partners in Africa.

28. A campaign on the theme "Manifesto for cities: the urban future we want" was prepared by World Urban Campaign partners through a consultative process in June and July 2012 and was featured in the exhibition at the World Urban Forum, with the text being widely publicized.

D. *State of the World's Cities Report*

29. During the reporting period, the *State of the World's Cities Report 2012/13: Prosperity of Cities*, was launched during the sixth session of the World Urban Forum in September 2012. The report presents, with solid evidence, some of the factors underlying recent and current crises that have significantly impacted on cities, including financial, economic, environmental, social and political crises. It shows that a lopsided focus on economic prosperity has led to growing inequalities between the rich and the poor, generated serious distortions in the form and functioning of cities, caused serious damage to the environment and unleashed precarious financial systems that could not be sustained in the long run. The report proposes a fresh approach to prosperity, one that is holistic and integrated and which is essential for the promotion of collective well-being and fulfilment for all. In order to measure present and future progress of cities towards the prosperity path, the report introduces a new tool, the "City Prosperity Index", together with a conceptual matrix, the "Wheel of Prosperity".

30. Researchers from 13 African research institutions provided global inputs to the report, with the cooperation of 14 cities on the continent. From Asia and the Pacific, researchers from 15 institutions also contributed to the report, with cooperation from 16 cities in the region. In addition, researchers from 12 institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean contributed to the report, with the cooperation of 12 cities in that region.

E. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

31. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in June 2012, provided UN-Habitat with a unique opportunity to work with Governments and the United Nations system as a whole to mainstream the urban agenda into sustainable development platforms. As a result, significant achievements were made during the summit. The outcome document, entitled "The future we want", articulates substantive areas of importance to the future work of UN-Habitat, including: (a) the need for a holistic, integrated approach to the development of sustainable urban and other human settlements; and (b) the need to strengthen cooperation mechanisms, partnership arrangements and coordination for implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

32. With the commitment by Member States at the Conference to integrate sustainable urban development policy as a key component of national sustainable development policies, local authorities have been empowered to work more closely

with national Governments to promote an integrated and holistic approach to planning and building sustainable cities through efficient transportation and communications networks, greener buildings, an efficient human settlements and service delivery system, improved air and water quality, reduced waste, improved disaster preparedness and response and increased climate resilience.

F. United Nations post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals

33. UN-Habitat continued participating in key activities relating to the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and sustainable development goals, including in the work of the United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda and its Working Group on Indicators. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat co-led (with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Organization for Migration, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh) the Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics, one of 11 thematic consultations organized by the United Nations Development Group Millennium Development Goals Task Force. In addition, UN-Habitat contributed to five other thematic consultations relevant to its mandate, namely, environmental sustainability, governance, energy, water and inequalities.

34. UN-Habitat was, and continues to be, represented in the Technical Support Team to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in the Sustainable Cities Thematic Group of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

35. The objective of the participation of UN-Habitat in the above-mentioned processes and activities was to explain the role of sustainable urbanization in sustainable development and to explore how Governments could reflect this in both the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

IV. Activities at the regional level

36. Activities at the regional level focused on regional ministerial conferences and cooperation with development banks.

A. Regional ministerial conferences

37. The Fourth African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was held from 20 to 23 March 2012, with the assistance of UN-Habitat. Both the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Habitat, as well as the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, participated in the Conference on the theme "Territorial planning, basic services for all and the impacts of climate change in Africa". The Conference established a permanent secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, based in

Nairobi. Two key documents were adopted unanimously at the end of the Conference, the Nairobi Declaration and the Nairobi Pact towards Habitat III.

38. The Fourth Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development was held in Amman from 10 to 12 December 2012, with the assistance of UN-Habitat. The theme of the conference was "Youth and information technology in sustainable urban development". The Conference adopted the Amman Declaration and Implementation Plan. UN-Habitat launched the publication *State of Urban Youth Report 2012-2013: Youth in the Prosperity of Cities* during the Conference, thus complementing the theme.

39. The twenty-first General Assembly of Ministers and High-level Authorities on Housing and Urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean was held from 20 to 22 August 2012 in Mexico City. During the meeting, *The State of Latin American and Caribbean Cities 2012: Towards a New Urbanization* report, produced by UN-Habitat, was presented. The meeting also discussed the participation of ministers and other high-level authorities in the sixth session of the World Urban Forum.

B. Regional reports on the state of cities

40. Regional reports on the state of cities continued to raise awareness of urbanization issues at the regional level. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat partnered with many research institutions to prepare the *Regional Report on the State of Arab Cities 2012: Challenges of Urban Transition*, which was launched in May 2012. This publication presents a number of urban issues which, if addressed, will ensure a more stable, equitable and sustainable future for the region. The *State of the Latin American and Caribbean Cities 2012* was published in August 2012. By December of that year, 15,194 downloads of the report had been made from the UN-Habitat digital library.

C. Regional development banks

41. Much of the UN-Habitat collaboration with regional development banks during the reporting period continued to focus on the need to increase investment flows into the water and sanitation sector, as well as into cities and the implementation of climate change policy.

African Development Bank

42. During the reporting period, the focus of collaboration between UN-Habitat and the African Development Bank (AfDB) was on the expansion of the Lake Victoria Region Water and Sanitation Initiative to a second phase, with grant funding of $110 million from the Bank. UN-Habitat provided technical assistance to the East African Community for the preparation of the second phase of the Initiative and is now engaged in providing capacity-building to five partner States. UN-Habitat and AfDB are also collaborating on water and sanitation projects in Zanzibar and Kenya, with UN-Habitat providing capacity-building to complement AfDB support for infrastructure improvements.

Asian Development Bank

43. Building on its long-standing collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UN-Habitat signed a further memorandum of understanding with the ADB city development initiative for Asia in May 2012. The Bank is providing support to the UN-Habitat Cities and Climate Change Initiative as an "upstream" delivery mechanism of city development initiatives that will assist cities in Asia in bridging the gap between pro-poor, gender-balanced, participatory planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation, on the one hand, and urban infrastructure investment programmes, on the other.

44. UN-Habitat started a dialogue with ADB in the area of sustainable urban mobility. A mission from UN-Habitat participated in the ADB Transport Forum, held in Manila from 6 to 8 November 2012.

European Investment Bank

45. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat and the European Investment Bank collaborated on pre-investment studies and project appraisal for a major expansion of the Lake Victoria region water and sanitation initiative to the three large towns in the lake basin: Kampala in Uganda, Mwanza in the United Republic of Tanzania and Kisumu in Kenya. UN-Habitat participated in the appraisal of the Kampala water supply expansion project being funded by the bank in partnership with the French Development Agency and the German Development Bank. Under an agreement with the European Investment Bank, UN-Habitat supervised the pre-investment studies for water and sanitation projects in Mwanza and Kisumu and coordinated the appraisal of the Mwanza water and sanitation project, which is now in the funding approval stage for a financing package of 104 million euros.

Inter-American Development Bank and Andean Development Corporation

46. Joint activities between UN-Habitat and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) included several thematic sessions at the Stockholm Water Week in 2012. Other areas of collaboration included the design and implementation of a regional policy dialogue on water and climate change in the Americas, advocacy campaigns on the rights-based approach to water in the Americas and support for the production of the document entitled "Americas water agenda", for presentation at the World Water Forum. UN-Habitat and IADB also collaborated on a number of country programmes in the Plurinational State of Bolivia and El Salvador. Furthermore, UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding with the Andean Development Corporation, as a new Habitat Agenda partner institution in the region.

V. National and subnational activities

47. Activities on major themes at the national and subnational levels implemented in cooperation with other United Nations agencies focused on five main Habitat Agenda issues: environment, climate change and cities; humanitarian assistance, especially post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction; land, housing and basic services; urban poverty reduction; and gender, women and young people.

A. Environment, climate change and cities

Environment Management Group

48. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued to participate in the Issue Management Group on the green economy of the Environment Management Group by mainstreaming the urban agenda into this inter-agency thematic process. The work of the Issue Management Group culminated in the 2012 launch of the inter-agency publication *Working towards a balanced and inclusive green economy: a United Nations system-wide perspective*. At the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, UN-Habitat strengthened its participation in the issue management group on biodiversity of the Environment Management Group by leveraging its comparative advantage in spatial planning towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

United Nations Environment Programme

49. UN-Habitat and UNEP continued to pursue their biennial implementation plan and related joint work programme, which focuses on climate change assessments, ecosystem-based adaptation, sustainable buildings and low-carbon cities. This collaboration was enhanced by: (a) the World Bank, through a joint work programme on cities and climate change funded by the Cities Alliance; (b) the launch of a global protocol for community-scale greenhouse gas emissions; and (c) the launch of the UNEP Global Initiative for Resource-Efficient Cities, on whose steering committee UN-Habitat serves. UN-Habitat also served on the working group on cities of the UNEP International Resource Panel and contributed to its report entitled "City-level decoupling: urban resource flows and the governance of infrastructure transitions".

50. UN-Habitat and UNEP also collaborated within the framework of a joint European Union-United Nations project on land and natural resource conflict, hosted by UNDP in New York. A series of guidance notes was developed, and joint missions were undertaken in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire. The new phase of collaboration will focus on the Great Lakes region of Africa.

51. UN-Habitat and UNEP further collaborated in the field in Myanmar, where UN-Habitat represents UNEP on the United Nations country team. A tripartite letter of authorization was signed with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry for the preparation of a report on the state of the environment. UN-Habitat and UNEP joined the European Union to design the Global Climate Change Alliance programme in Myanmar.

Global Environment Facility

52. UN-Habitat continued to implement a project on sustainable transport in East Africa supported by the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with UNEP. The project covers the cities of Nairobi, Kampala and Addis Ababa and aims to create awareness and understanding among policymakers, stakeholders and the general public in East Africa and beyond of the importance and benefits of establishing suitable transport systems in urban areas. Also in collaboration with UNEP, UN-Habitat implemented a project on promoting energy efficiency in East Africa, covering Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

53. UN-Habitat collaborated with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012. At the Conference, UN-Habitat led four high-level events and participated in the high-level round table and the sustainable cities and innovation dialogue coordinated by the Department.

54. In collaboration with the Partnership on Sustainable Low Carbon Transport, UN-Habitat undertook a consultative process with partners such as ADB, the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and, through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made a voluntary commitment at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development on building institutional and political capacity for urban sustainable mobility in 100 UN-Habitat partner cities across the world.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

55. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat strengthened its global programmes by collaborating with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on urban heritage. Discussions between the two agencies continued as to how UN-Habitat could contribute to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and support the dissemination of the UNESCO historic urban landscape action plan in Kenya. UN-Habitat currently has joint programmes with UNESCO for safer cities in Brazil, Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

56. The Bangkok Office of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is co-located with the Sustainable Urban Development Section, Environment and Development Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). This has substantially strengthened the collaboration and partnership between the two agencies.

57. UN-Habitat and ESCAP continued to jointly implement United Nations Development Account projects, with a focus on cities and climate change. They jointly developed and submitted a proposal to the Development Account, entitled "Strengthening the capacity of policymakers in South-East Asia for promoting policies and developing plans for improved wastewater treatment and reuse in urban and peri-urban areas".

58. The ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre hosts the UN-Habitat office in Suva, and the two collaborated on initiatives on climate change and cities in Fiji and Vanuatu. The two entities also worked together on a regional urban knowledge framework, supported in part by funding from the Cities Alliance, to promote discussions on sustainable cities in the subregion.

59. In 2012, UN-Habitat collaborated with ESCAP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature to improve the capacity of national and local government officials in three towns in Pakistan to provide decentralized solid waste management.

60. During the sixth session of the World Urban Forum, ESCAP and UN-Habitat jointly kick-started the regional preparatory process for Habitat III by organizing a

high-level meeting for Asia-Pacific delegations on the theme "Sustainable cities and human settlements in Asia-Pacific: a road map from Rio to Habitat III".

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

61. During the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) organized a workshop with IBM on sustainable cities. Senior officials and decision makers from the public and private sectors from different cities in the world participated, as well as experts from UNEP, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the International Telecommunication Union and UNFPA. Dialogues with UNITAR regional centres have since been initiated, within the scope of the ongoing United Nations Development Account project executed by UN-Habitat to strengthen the institutional capacity of training institutions in Asia, Africa and Latin America that work closely with the capacity-building initiatives of local governments.

B. Humanitarian assistance: post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction

Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee

62. UN-Habitat continued to be a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Principals and Working Group and of the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, chaired by the Emergency Relief Coordinator. UN-Habitat continued to chair the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas. The implementation of the strategy and two-year action plan of the Reference Group saw progress in introducing new and improved ways of doing business between United Nations and non-governmental humanitarian actors.

63. Within the global cluster coordination system of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, UN-Habitat continued to be the focal point entity with responsibility for housing, land and property within the Global Protection Cluster Working Group. The Group provided support to a number of country programmes in urban areas, including Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan. Within this scope of responsibility, UN-Habitat continued to propose shelter, water and sanitation and emergency activities through the humanitarian pooled funding instruments, including the Central Emergency Response Fund, flash appeals and the Consolidated Appeals Processes. As a member of the Committee's Sub-Working Group on preparedness and the Preparedness Group of the Sub-Working Group on Humanitarian Financing, UN-Habitat ensured that the urban focus in preparedness activities of the Committee was maintained. UN-Habitat also collaborated with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in reconstruction and rehabilitation in El Salvador, ensuring the safe return of families after the Tropical Depression 12-E cyclone.

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

64. A memorandum of understanding, signed by UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2003 on cooperation between the two agencies to build resilient cities against disasters through the "Making cities

resilient" campaign and the city resilience profiling programme, was enhanced during the sixth session of the World Urban Forum in September 2012.

65. In 2011, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction jointly enlisted 31 Pakistani cities in the "Making cities resilient" campaign, with the local government self-assessment tool as a first step. On the basis of this, a new resilient cities programme was endorsed during the reporting period by the National Disaster Management Agency and the Ministry of Climate Change of Pakistan.

66. Jointly with the Disaster Management Centre of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, UN-Habitat developed toolkits for the assessment of school and hospital safety for multi-hazards in South Asia. The four volumes of toolkits for new designs and retrofitting are being launched and rolled out in member countries of the Association through the training of trainers.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

67. UN-Habitat and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) worked with the Global Land Tool Network on the production of the voluntary guidelines on good land governance, forestry and fisheries that were endorsed by the Committee on Food Security in 2012. In September 2012, UN-Habitat also supported and attended an FAO networking event on food and agriculture for the urban future at the sixth session of the World Urban Forum.

World Food Programme

68. UN-Habitat continued to implement a joint programme with the World Food Programme to build resilient cities in the Philippines by developing the local government capacities of the cities of Cagayan De Oro, Davao, Iloilo and Butuan in risk and vulnerability assessments, city climate change action plans, piloting small-scale projects and developing knowledge products in support of policy dialogue and national replication and sustainability.

C. Land, housing and basic services

69. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat cooperated with more than 10 agencies and organizations across the United Nations system in its work on land, housing and basic services.

United Nations joint programming for Somalia

70. UN-Habitat continued to participate, as one of the five United Nations agencies, in the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery for Somalia. The Programme is implemented by five partners: UN-Habitat, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Programme has translated many of the ambitions of the "One United Nations" principles into tangible improvements in aid and wider development effectiveness. The Programme was launched in 2008 and has recently concluded its five-year first phase. It is now starting a second five-year phase, running from 2013 to 2017, and is

referred to as the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery for Somalia II. The Programme is aligned with the United Nations Somali Assistance Strategy 2011-2015, and contributes to the implementation of at least five of the Millennium Development Goals.

World Bank Group

71. UN-Habitat continued to be a member of the World Bank advisory group on the land governance assessment framework. UN-Habitat partnered with the World Bank, the French Development Agency and the Embassy of Sweden to support the sustainable urban development sector in Kenya. UN-Habitat also agreed to house a strategic advisory component in its Regional Office for Africa and the Arab States.

72. The World Bank, UN-Habitat and UNEP have joined forces, with support from the Cities Alliance, to contribute to a more coordinated and focused response on climate change issues facing cities, especially in developing countries. An additional product of this collaboration is a continuing review of the Cities Alliance methodology on strategies for city development. Consultation with the World Bank has started in connection with the latter's transport policy programme for sub-Saharan Africa.

United Nations Children's Fund

73. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat worked with UNICEF and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on a joint programme entitled "Safe and friendly cities for all" to support urban safety in public spaces in Dushanbe, Metro Manila, Greater Beirut, Marrakesh, Morocco, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, San José and Tegucigalpa.

Economic Commission for Africa

74. High-level consultations were held between UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on joint project formulation covering a range of urban basic services. UN-Habitat, through its Global Land Tool Network, continued to work with ECA, AfDB and the African Union Commission on a set of activities aimed at improving security of tenure and access to land for all in Africa. UN-Habitat is a member of the steering committee of the Land Policy Initiative for Africa. Since the beginning of 2012, UN-Habitat has been leading the capacity development component of the Initiative, aimed at supporting African Member States in the implementation of the Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, signed by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in 2009. A memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and ECA was signed in 2012 along these lines.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

75. UN-Habitat continued to work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) against forced evictions. The two agencies jointly produced the publication *Losing Your Home: Assessing the Impact of Eviction*. Follow-up research and publications on eviction impact assessment methodologies are in progress. UN-Habitat and OHCHR co-organized a networking event on housing rights and eviction at the sixth session of the World Urban Forum

and, immediately after, co-organized an expert group meeting on eviction impact assessment.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

76. UN-Habitat continued to provide technical support to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Global Shelter Cluster, led by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for conflicts and complex emergencies. Settlement planning and/or water and sanitation support was provided for camps hosting Syrian refugees in Iraq and Jordan and for Somali refugees in Kenya. Technical support on shelter issues was provided in Somalia, while in the Sudan UN-Habitat seconded a staff member to UNHCR for support on durable shelter and settlements planning. Housing, land and property technical support was provided to UNHCR in Iraq, the Philippines and the Sudan, while expertise in these areas was identified for deployment to UNHCR for Kyrgyzstan and Libya.

UN-Energy

77. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat, as the current chair of UN-Energy Africa, took part in several UN-Energy meetings and contributed to the organization of the second All-Africa Energy Week, which took place in Addis Ababa from 12 to 16 November 2012. UN-Habitat represented UN-Energy Africa at a number of forums and conferences during the reporting period, including the high-level forum organized by the Economic Community of West African States on paving the way for sustainable energy for all in West Africa through renewable energy and energy efficiency, held in Accra from 29 to 31 October 2012.

78. During the sixth session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat organized a workshop on renewables in growing cities in Africa in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency. In collaboration with the African Union, UN-Habitat is also developing a joint project on converting waste to energy for four countries in Africa.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

79. UN-Habitat and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization collaborated in developing a proposal on a sustainable energy corridor in West Africa. Consultations are also under way for developing a proposal to work together in selected cities in the Lake Tanganyika basin, with a focus on water and sanitation and economic development.

UN-Water

80. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat continued as Vice-Chair of UN-Water. UN-Habitat and UNEP co-chair the UN-Water task force on wastewater management. As a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, a process has been initiated by the task force to develop a draft sustainable development goal target and associated indicators on effective wastewater management and pollution control.

81. UN-Habitat briefed UN-Water members attending the seventeenth meeting of UN-Water, held in Stockholm from 23 to 25 August 2012, on the progress achieved in defining a sustainable development goal target for wastewater management. At

the same meeting, UN-Habitat presented a proposal to establish a task force on capacity development for water operators.

D. Urban poverty reduction

82. In implementing its work on urban poverty reduction, UN-Habitat cooperated with two main partners, namely UNDP and UNFPA.

United Nations Development Programme

83. UNDP continued to be a key partner in Haiti and worked with UN-Habitat in several joint programmes on the Millennium Development Goals in such areas as water and sanitation (Ecuador), gender (Brazil) and safer cities (Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala). UNDP also supported programme implementation in Cuba (housing) and Colombia (implementation of the Habitat Agenda).

84. In August 2012, the Administrator of UNDP, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat sent a joint letter to all United Nations resident coordinators to encourage them to address urban issues in teamwork with relevant members of the United Nations system. The Administrator of UNDP also informed the UNDP country offices of the current memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and UNDP and encouraged them to work with UN-Habitat.

85. In addition, in December 2012 UN-Habitat and UNDP ended a seven-year substantive partnership in responding to the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in Aceh and Nias, Indonesia, in 2004. The two agencies jointly organized a workshop on cities and climate change with representatives of 10 Asian cities, which resulted in a partnership for a joint vulnerability assessment for the city of Makassar, Indonesia. UN-Habitat is providing substantive inputs to the UNDP strategy paper on sustainable urbanization and poverty reduction in Asia and the Pacific, with a view to forging strategic partnerships at the country level.

United Nations Population Fund

86. In Uganda, UN-Habitat and UNFPA collaborated on a joint programme on population, under outcome 3 of the programme: youth and vulnerable groups have competitive skills and opportunities to participate in the economy for sustainable livelihood. This was in addition to the collaboration between the two organizations on the utilization of population information, including urban population data, in development planning in Pakistan and Viet Nam.

E. Gender, women and young people

87. In the cross-cutting areas of gender, women and young people (youth), UN-Habitat cooperated mainly with UN-Women and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

UN-Women

88. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat collaborated with UN-Women in its global programmes on safer cities free of violence against women and girls, which

were, and still are, being implemented in five cities: Kigali, Cairo, Port Moresby, New Delhi and Quito.

89. During the sixth session of the World Urban Forum, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women signed a memorandum of understanding that covers all countries where the two entities have common interests or agree to collaborate.

90. At the beginning of 2013, UN-Women provided a fully funded gender adviser to the Gender Unit of UN-Habitat to review and provide recommendations on the "gender architecture" within the Programme and to assist with a review of its gender policy.

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

91. UN-Habitat continued to be Co-Chair, with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, which is developing the system-wide action plan on youth on behalf of the Secretary-General. The main goal is greater opportunities for youth to secure decent work and income over the life cycle, thus contributing to a virtuous circle of poverty reduction, sustainable development and social inclusion.

VI. Recommendations

92. In the light of the deliberations of and resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session, Member States are called upon to:

(a) Support the national, regional and global preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), to be held in 2016, through voluntary contributions to the Habitat III trust fund;

(b) Start the preparation of national reports assessing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and other relevant internationally agreed goals and targets, as well as identifying future policy directions for inclusion in a "New Urban Agenda" at Habitat III;

(c) Give appropriate consideration in their contributions to the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals to the role of sustainable urbanization and the role of cities and local governments in sustainable development;

(d) Allocate appropriate financial and human resources for slum upgrading and prevention and establish financing strategies that mobilize public subsidies and income generated by land regularization and reallocation processes;

(e) Initiate processes to strengthen or develop national urban policies as a key strategy for national socioeconomic development that maximizes the national and local benefits of urbanization, integrates housing policy and mitigates potential adverse externalities, and as a coordination mechanism among different sectors and government ministries.